



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

December 1, 2011

Dear Youth Workers and Pastors,

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's 2012 Senior High Youth Gathering, takes place February 24-26 at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia. **Please pass this letter on to youth ministry contacts in your congregation.** A poster is available at www.sepayouth.org for you to download and distribute to your youth or hang in your church. The Senior High Youth Gathering is open to youth in grades 9-12 and their adult leaders.

Our theme for the 2012 Senior High Youth Gathering (SHYG) is Leak Jesus. Our theme verse comes from Colossians 3:17: *"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

Registration opens January 3, 2012. **Save money and register early!** We are offering an Early Bird discount. The cost of the gathering is **\$145 if you register on or before January 26, 2012. After January 26, the price will be \$170.** Registration closes February 10th. Scholarships are available. You can download the scholarship application form at www.sepayouth.org on the resources page. Go to www.sepayouth.org to download the registration form. Payment will still be made by check and sent to the synod office after you register. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of registration. The balance is due at or before check-in at SHYG.

To help you in the registration process, you will need the following information when you register your participants -

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| -names of participants | -rooming preferences |
| -gender | -if any adults want to be small group leaders |
| -t-shirt size | -special housing arrangements |
| -email addresses (not a requirement for all participants) | -special needs (including dietary) |

All participants must also complete and return a medical release form with a front and back photocopy of their medical insurance card and a gathering covenant which is available online and will be emailed to you in your registration confirmation packet. **Please mail, scan and then email, or fax your release forms, copies of the insurance cards and covenants to Debbie (youthministry@sepa.org or fax 267.323.3777) by February 17th.**

The cost of the gathering includes your housing, program expenses. Please note that **meals are on your own.** Congregations are able to bring in food for their individual groups, however we as a gathering can not bring in food from the outside. There is free time over lunch and dinner on Saturday. The Crowne Plaza is across the street from the King of Prussia Mall so there are dinner options there or there are many delivery places in the area.

Gathering youth participants will be housed four to room with two double beds. Gathering adult participants are usually housed three to a room. Due to suggestions on past years' evaluations, we are offering an additional housing option. If members of your group (particularly adults) desire to be housed with fewer roommates that may be done for an additional charge. For two people in a

room there is an additional charge of \$150 per person. If someone desires their own room, that is an additional charge of \$250. *Please be sure to note special housing arrangements when filling out your group registration.* The additional fees will be added to your balance due.

According to Synod Safety Policies: It is required that all adults who participate in a synodical overnight event complete national criminal and child abuse/sex offender clearances. **A copy of these reports must be given to the synod by February 17th, 2012.** All information received is confidential and will not be shared with others in the congregation or synod. The synod is not responsible for any fees. The synod's preferred providers are IntelliCorp and ChoicePoint (Volunteer Select Plus). Discounted rates for ELCA congregations and/or non-profits are available from both providers. More information on these preferred companies is available online at www.sepayouth.org. If an individual chooses to use another company for background checks the results of both the **criminal and child abuse checks** must be **clearly reported** in the report provided to the synod. The synod reserves the right to refuse any checks not done through one of the preferred providers.

The annual **Lutheran Youth Organization Convention** will occur during the Senior High Youth Gathering. The convention will be Sunday, February 26th, at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia starting at 8:00 a.m. **Even if your congregation is not attending the gathering, you can still send two delegates to the convention at no charge.** If this is the case, please contact Debbie to register your delegates for the convention. Delegates at the convention will be electing conference representatives as well as the youth serving on Synod Council. Most conferences will need to elect new representatives, so **PLEASE encourage young leaders in your congregation to think about running for these positions.**

Please contact me if you have any questions. I am looking forward to seeing you at 2012 Senior High Youth Gathering!

Peace,

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